August 25, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor;

I find your letter of August 24th this morning. I can appreciate something of the situation in business from what I have heard and read, and it must be very difficult to know how to plan for the future. There may be some advantage for us, however, as I am told that work is so slack that contractors are willing to bid very low in order to keep their organizations going. I doubt very much if we will be able to do anything more than get in the foundations this season. We are receiving the plans almost a month later than we had expected, and nearly two months after approval of the p eliminary sketches. The pipe line is under construction so that heat could be furnished to the building, but I do not see how it could be advanced sufficiently to work satisfactorily during the winter.

I think we ought to find out as soon as possible whether we are likely to construct this building within the estimate. I have, therefore, written Allen & Collens suggesting that they send out the plans as they are for figures, leaving us to make such suggestions as we wish later.

I must say that the plans please me very much. I think the architects have improved on the building while of course the general design is the same. The interior especially strikes me as a very artistic piece of work. I think they have much improved the style, I shall be glad to know what you and Mr. Lyman think on these matters.

I doubt if it is safe to put on a copper roof in this climate. Our experience is that it cau ses stains on the marble underneath, through action of water.

J.A.M. #2

I do not quite know what to say as to my future plans. I have offered to Professor Wetherell to take a trip in connection with preparation for my address at Plattsburg September 11th, starting Friday of this week. It may be he will be unable to go, and at any rate at the first opportunity I will try to arrange for President Brainerd and myself to run down to Rutland to talk over the situation with you.

Faithfully yours,